

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

6:30 p.m. Executive Session

7:00 p.m. Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Member Absent:

Michael Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was called to order at 6:32p.m.

Mrs. Spengler, Vice-Chairman, announced that no votes were taken.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members in attendance were Gail Abromitis, Michael Mancieri, Christopher Savastano, and Stephen Ponte.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“MHS Program of Studies”

Interim Principal Gail Abromitis reported on the 2012 Program of Studies. The Capstone will begin during the 4th quarter of Grade 11.

Changes to the 2012-2013 Program of Studies include:

- The addition of a National Art Honor Society**
- The addition of a Woodworking II half-year course.**
- Electronic Music has been renamed Electronic Technology.**
- AP Physics C has been replaced with an EEP Physics (Early**

Enrollment Program) course. One teacher has already been trained. A student pays a modest fee and receives one college credit.

- Social Studies remains the same. Changes will occur next year due to curriculum revisions.**
- With the addition of the new art studio, Digital Imaging I and II replace Photography.**

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- French IV and Spanish IV are now EEP language courses.**

The Program of Studies needs to be completed so students can begin registering for courses.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Proclamation – Miss Jane Hale, former Assistant Principal at Middletown High School, was recognized for role as Student Activities Finance Coordinator.**

MOTION 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To move the Oliver Hazard Perry agenda item. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Betsy Hyman is leading the educational component of the Oliver Hazard Perry project. The non-profit organization has raised \$4 million towards the \$6.6 million project. The ship will be used as an educational opportunity for students. The objectives for students include exploring opportunities in Rhode Island's marine trades, experiencing state of the art technologies, and developing a broader understanding of the world's oceans. All students are trainees under U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Students will be part of the crew under the guidance of a captain and professional crew. The project will focus on high school students, but there will be opportunities for younger students to participate.

Mr. O'Connell said that the project should be completed by July 4, 2013. This will give students hands-on experience. The ship will be in Rhode Island from April to October and then move south during the winter season.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

•No "Student Activities" for December 15, 2011.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- A letter from the Executive Director of NAFIS thanking Mrs. Kraeger and Ms. Pellerin for participating in the recent conference.
- Two teachers received \$250 each from ACE – Aquidneck Collaborative for Education.
- Memo to Town Administrator Shawn Brown regarding the budget adjustment meeting on Monday.
- Copy of the Middletown High School Sports Awards Night. Students were recognized for athletic and academic feats.

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for December 15, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 1, 2011, in the amount of \$12,011.77
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 25, 2011, in the amount of \$598.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 27, 2011, in the amount of \$5,679.22
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated July 28, 2011, in the amount of \$400.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 5, 2011, in the amount of \$84,706.39
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 12, 2011, in the amount of \$14,145.49
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 19, 2011, in the amount of \$16,249.38
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 24, 2011, in the amount of \$496,543.07
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 24, 2011, in the amount of \$78,820.81
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 30, 2011, in the amount of \$14,329.70
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated August 31, 2011, in the amount of \$282.41
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 9, 2011, in the amount of \$31,659.23
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 9, 2011, in the amount of \$89,447.98

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 9, 2011, in the amount of \$14,533.14
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 12, 2011, in the amount of \$103,285.30
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 19, 2011, in the amount of \$271,124.12
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 26, 2011, in the amount of \$388.35
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 26, 2011, in the amount of \$94,259.50
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 27, 2011, in the amount of \$75,880.13
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 29, 2011, in the amount of \$33,163.84
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 7, 2011, in the amount of \$318,512.27
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 7, 2011, in the amount of \$88,814.32
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 12, 2011, in the amount of \$90,269.67
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 14, 2011, in the amount of \$187,838.19
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 17, 2011, in the amount of \$7,766.80
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 18, 2011, in the amount of \$258,934.93

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 19, 2011, in the amount of \$84,517.67
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 24, 2011, in the amount of \$85,576.79
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 26, 2011, in the amount of \$104,389.27
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 28, 2011, in the amount of \$329,186.54
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 3, 2011, in the amount of \$57,873.82
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 10, 2011, in the amount of \$227,734.28
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 14, 2011, in the amount of \$801.83
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 14, 2011, in the amount of \$14,266.61
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 17, 2011, in the amount of \$242,323.22

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- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 18, 2011, in the amount of \$83,969.52

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 29, 2011, in the amount of \$4,540.00
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 2, 2011, in the amount of \$84,637.53
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 2, 2011, in the amount of \$100,931.74
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 2, 2011, in the amount of \$45,749.26

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Amy Kalif

.2 Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School (One Year Only)

Maria Stack

.6 Spanish Teacher, Middletown High School (One Year Only)

Keith Daniels

.4 Computer Science Teacher, Middletown High School (One Year Only)

P. Hakan Durudogan

School Dentist

EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Lisa Carr

Teacher Assistant, Middletown High School

From January 3, 2012 to the end of the 2011-2012 School Year

MATERNITY LEAVE REVISION

Tara Sweeney

Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

From January 30, 2012 to February 8, 2012, using approximately 39 to 46 sick days

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the J.H.G. Dramatics Director Job Description, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the J.H.G. Astronomy Club Advisor Job Description, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Natural Helpers Advisor Job Description, 1st Reading. Motion Failed 2-2.

YEA: Liana Fenton NAY: William O'Connell

Kellie DiPalma Theresa Spengler

Mr. O'Connell feels that we do not need a job description if the position is not being filled. Mrs. Kraeger said that if the job is included in the contract, it needs to go before the School Committee. (Minutes of December 15, 2011 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Tempo Art Director Job Description, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the following Advisor/Director Job Descriptions, 2nd Reading. Unanimous vote.

- J.H.G. Art Club Advisor**
- J.H.G. Computer Club Advisor**
- J.H.G. Student Council Advisor**
- J.H.G. Tech. Ed./Robotics Club Advisor**
- J.H.G. Yearbook Advisor**
- Academic Decathlon Advisor**

- All-State Band Director
- All-State Choral Director
- Community Service Advisor
- Flag Team Advisor
- U.S. FIRST Advisor
- Virtual High School

CONTRACTS

The Superintendent Recommends: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2)Liana Fenton.
That the School Committee extend the contracts of Superintendent, Rosemarie K. Kraeger, and Assistant Superintendent, Linda F. Savastano, to 2014. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

No “Old Business” for December 15, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS

- FY 12-13 Budget – A required meeting with the Town Council will be held January 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Hopefully we will have some revenue projections from the Town. Enrollment and staffing will be reviewed. A meeting will be held with Building Principals to get an idea of what they need for staffing. A Budget Subcommittee

Meeting needs to be scheduled. Members of the Budget Subcommittee are Mrs. Spengler, Mrs. Fenton and Mr. Viveiros from the Town Council.

•Structural Studies – Mr. Collins reported that new structural surveys were necessary on all buildings. There are roofing issues which we are addressing and there is a maintenance program for the middle school and high school. At Forest Avenue School, new roof supports need to be installed. A permanent solution will be taken care of this summer. This area is where the new roof connects to the old. The other area where there is concern is in the corner of the library. Ponding water and stained

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roof tiles also need to be addressed. Most schools were built in the 1960's. The School Department will need to make a decision soon regarding the Facilities Master Plan. Reports will be sent to principals and a building committee meeting will be scheduled.

Mrs. Spengler said that neighbors are still voicing concern about the noise from the chiller on the Gaudet School building. Mr. Collins said that everything has been done to deflect the sound.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

•**Curriculum** – Mrs. Savastano reported that they are almost finished with the K-12 Math Curriculum and grades 8-12 World Language curriculum has been completed. The drafts are being reviewed. During the second semester, the Health and PE Curriculum will be reviewed. As of January 3, 2012, a new reporting requirement requires that roster information (courses and teachers assigned) needs to be uploaded to RIDE. Teachers complete attendance electronically and will be able to view rosters of students.

•**Financial** – Ms. Pellerin reported that the current 2012 LEA Annual Required Contribution (ARC) rate for Teachers' Retirement is 13.23% of annual salary. RIDE passed the pension reform on November 17, 2011, which reduced the ARC for 2013 to 11.48%. Starting in 2013, the LEA will have to make a separate contribution to the teacher's retirement of 2.6% of annual salary for districts like Middletown whose certified staff do not participate in Social Security. This plan will be run by ERSRI and a provider will be selected by the State in the spring of 2012.

•**Facilities** – Mr. Collins reported that construction is a week behind schedule at the MHS Art Center, but the time will be made up. The goal is to be in the room on February 1st. The electricity rate will go the lowest it has been in years after the first of the year. Locking in long-term rate is not the way to go. Currently we are supplied by

“Direct Energy”. We use National Grid’s lines to deliver power that we have purchased.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent’s Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a Defense Council Meeting for partnerships and a meeting of the New England Secondary Council. The next meeting will be in February. Mrs. Fenton also attended a college compact meeting, which is a business and educational partnership K-16. They will be meeting in January with Dr. DiPasquale at CCRI. Dr. DiPasquale knows of three foundations that would like to connect secondary schools with community college.

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Mrs. Kraeger represented the Middletown Public Schools at the Change of Command at the Navy Base and will meet with the new Captain in mid-January.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 902 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk